WLIC Educational Tagging Kit - FAQ

1. What is the difference between a reusable tag and a standard tag?

Reusable tags are used primarily for display and demonstrations. Official identification tags cannot be reused because they are destroyed upon removal. There are a few exceptions to this, but in almost all cases tags are not reused.

2. What do the colors of the tags mean?

For the most part, color uses are decided by the producer. They often use certain tag colors for specific breeding groups, herd usages, and more. There are a few exceptions such as HDX and FDX tags which are always yellow (FDX) or white (HDX) in order to tell the two types apart.

3. Why do some farms use radio frequency identification (RFID) tags and some do not?

RFID technology usage varies by each production type, for example, dairy operations potentially have different uses than beef operations and so on. Some farms management style require the RFID technology and some do not. RFID is a relatively new technology that producers support, but it will take time for the systems to become standard.

4. Are all tags assigned to specific species?

No, nearly all tags can be used for every species of animals but the largest factor in tag decisions are the sizes of the animals. It wouldn't make sense to tag a piglet with a large Maxi tag if it is going to get caught on an object and be pulled out. It also wouldn't make sense to put a small sheep tag on a beef cow that you cannot read from a distance.

5. When can you remove tags?

Non-official tags can be removed at any time. It is unlawful to remove official tags such as animal identification number (AIN) (840003123456789) and NUES (35ABC1234).

6. What happens when an official tag falls out?

The tag number of the tag that has fallen out can be replaced with a new tag number but it must be reported to the state Department of Agriculture.

7. How long does the RFID chip last in the tag?

RFID tags are designed to last for the life of the animal. The frequency strength varies by industry and impacts the tag lifespan.

8. What is the difference between HDX and FDX tags?

HDX tags are high-performance tags that use half duplex technology while FDX tags are standard tags that use full duplex technology. Both HDX and FDX follow the ISO standard and can be read by the same electronic identification (EID) readers. Half D\ duplex (HDX) tags are better able to transmit through metal interference such as metal and steel objects. Full duplex (FDX) tags work well when read range is not an issue. Both provide a tamperproof cap for security and retention.

9. What is the read range of the RFID tags?

Typical read range on HDX tags ranges from 38cm - 46cm (15" - 18") while typical read range on FDX tags ranges from 35cm - 41cm (13" - 16").